AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 13 14, 17, 22 and 61 as follows. Please cancel claim 25 without prejudice. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A data management method using a network system which includes a server, a client terminal and a plurality of data servers, comprising:

a reception step of making the server receive a user's data storage request from the client terminal;

a select step of making the server automatically select from the plurality of data servers at least one data server located in [a different] an area which is different from an area of user's address registered by the user of the client terminal; and

a storage step of making the server send data associated with the data storage request to the selected at least one data server, and store the data in the selected at least one data server.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein when the server selects a plurality of data servers in the select step, the server sends the data associated with the data storage request to the respective selected data servers.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a step of making the server acquire disaster information from a disaster information database that provides disaster information, and search for an area with a low disaster rate of occurrence on the basis of the acquired disaster information, and

wherein the select step includes the step of:

making the server select at least the data server located in a different area from the [registered] area of the user's address, and the data server located in the area with the low disaster rate of occurrence.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, further comprising:

a step of making the server encrypt the data associated with the data storage request, and

wherein the storage step includes the step of:

making the server send the data encrypted by different methods to the respective data servers, and store the data in the data servers.

6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

a step of making the server periodically acquire the encrypted data from the data servers;

a step of making the server decrypt the acquired data; and

a step of making the server compare the decrypted data.

7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a step of making the server send to the client terminal an address of the data server that stores the data.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

a step of making the server send to the client terminal an address of the data server that stores the data, and a key used to decrypt the encrypted data.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein information of the [registered area] the user's address is pre-stored in the server.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a step of making the data server receive a user's data transmission request from the client terminal; and

a step of making the data server send data associated with the data transmission request to the client terminal.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A server comprising:

reception means for receiving a user's data storage request sent from a client terminal;

select means for automatically selecting from a plurality of data servers at least one data server located in [a different] an area which is different from an area of user's address registered by the user of the client terminal; and

sending means for sending the data associated with the data storage request to the at least one selected data server via a communication line.

13. (currently amended) A computer program for making a computer function as:

reception means for receiving a user's data storage request sent from a client terminal via a communication line;

select means for automatically selecting from a plurality of data servers at least one data server located in [a different] an area which is different from an area of user's address registered by the user of the client terminal; and

means for sending the data associated with the data storage request to the at least one selected data server via a communication line.

14. (currently amended) A data management system including a control server, a client terminal, and a plurality of data servers, which can communicate with each other via a communication line,

said control server comprising:

reception means for receiving a user's data storage request sent from the client terminal;

select means for automatically selecting from the plurality of data servers at least one data server located in [a different] an area which is different from an area of user's address registered by the user of the client terminal; and

means for sending the data associated with the data storage request to the at least one selected data server, and

said data server comprising:

means for storing the data sent from said control server.

15. (previously presented) The server according to claim 12, wherein said select means automatically selects the at least one data server based on the user's service subscription

qualification level.

16. (previously presented) The server according to claim 15, wherein said select means selects at least two data servers.

17. (currently amended) The server according to claim 15 wherein said sending means encrypts the data associated with the storage request using an encryption method corresponding to the at least one data server selected by said select means.

18. (previously presented) The server according to claim 15, wherein the service subscription qualification level is determined based on a subscription fee for a service.

19. (previously presented) The server according to claim 15, wherein the service subscription qualification level is determined based on a service subscription term.

20. (previously presented) The server according to claim 15, wherein said select means selects the at least one data server on the basis of disaster information.

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) The server according to claim 15, wherein said select means selects a data server with a lowest suffering risk from the plurality of data servers corresponding to the service subscription qualification level of the user who issued the storage request, and a server with a lowest suffering risk of the data servers in a different area from the [registered area] area of user's address registered by the user who issued the storage request.

23. (previously presented) The server according to claim 15, wherein when the user's service subscription qualification level has changed, said select means re-selects the at least one data server, and said sending means sends the data associated with the storage request

again to the at least one data server re-selected by said select means.

24. (previously presented) The server according to claim 15, wherein said select means re-selects the at least one data server in accordance with a change in disaster information, and said sending means sends the data associated with the storage request again to the at least one data server re-selected by said select means.

25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) The server according to claim 15, further comprising checking means for checking authenticity of the data stored in the at least one data server.

27. (previously presented) The server according to claim 26, wherein said checking means checks authenticity by comparing data which are associated with an identical storage request and are stored in a plurality of the data servers.

28. (previously presented) The server according to claim 26, wherein said checking means checks if data becomes fraudulent due to a memory medium.

29. (previously presented) The server according to claim 26, wherein said checking means checks if data becomes fraudulent due to tampering of data.

30. (previously presented) The server according to claim 29, wherein when said checking means determines that the data becomes fraudulent due to tampering of data, said checking means sends a message indicating this to a client terminal that issued the storage request of the data.

31. (previously presented) The server according to claim 15, further comprising authentication means for authenticating if the user who issued the storage request is a member who subscribes to the service, and accepts only the storage request from the user

authenticated by said authentication means.

32. (previously presented) The server according to claim 15, further comprising authentication means for checking authenticity of the at least one data server selected by said select means, and said sending means sends data associated with the storage request in only the data server authenticated by said authentication means.

33. (previously presented) The server according to claim 15, further comprising notify means for sending at least various storage condition data associated with a data storage process to a client terminal that issued the storage request.

34. (previously presented) The server according to claim 33, wherein said notify means sends encryption algorithm and key data in addition to storage location data of the data associated with the storage request as the storage condition data.

35. (previously presented) The server according to claim 33, wherein the client device includes storage means for storing at least the storage condition data sent from said notify means.

36.-37. (canceled)

38. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the server automatically selects the at least one data server based on the user's service subscription qualification level in the select step.

39.-60. (canceled)

61. (currently amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein said select means automatically selects the at least one data server based on the user's service subscription qualification level.

62.-83. (canceled)

84. (previously presented) The computer program according to claim 13, wherein said select means automatically selects the at least one data server based on the user's service subscription qualification level.